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SUBJECT: GERMANY H1N1 FLU UPDATE: 10 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 518, B) Berlin 512, C) Berlin 495, D) Berlin
488

11. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) confirmed today another case of A/H1N1 Influenza in Germany, increasing the total number of confirmed cases to ten. One man from Saxony-Anhalt tested positive for H1N1 after returning from Mexico with flu-like symptoms. Despite the increase in flu cases, RKI sees flu stabilization for Germany. END SUMMARY.

Second Case of H1N1 in Saxony-Anhalt

12. (SBU) The National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) announced in its morning press briefing May 7 another laboratory-confirmed case of H1N1 for Germany. This increases the total number of confirmed cases in Germany to ten (see Refs B, C, and D).

13. (SBU) A man from Wittenberg (Saxony-Anhalt) tested positive for H1N1 after returning from a trip to Mexico with flu-like symptoms. Media reported that he felt sick during an examination by his company's medical officer. A sample was sent to the reference laboratory of the Robert Koch Institute, where the virus was detected. Due to his mild form of flu, he was treated at home, and health officials report that he has already recovered. None of the people he has been in contact with have shown flu symptoms so far. This is the second confirmed case of H1N1 for the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt (first case reported in Ref D). According to RKI, the men are from different counties and are not associates.

Stabilization for Germany

14. (SBU) RKI announced that the epidemic in Germany is "in a stabilization phase," but that authorities would not let their guard down. Though optimistic about stabilization, RKI expects further spread of the virus in Germany.

Airline Planning

15. (SBU) German airline TUI announced that it would extend
its cancellation of flights to Mexico City until May 31 -- the
airline was originally scheduled to resume flights there May
15. The company's planes will continue to fly to Cancun.

KOENIG